Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Plan for 2015-16

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Government of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Mark Docherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

I am pleased to present the Ministry's plan for 2015-16.

Government's Direction and Budget for 2015-16 follow the principle of *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*, balancing building for the future with fiscal responsibility.

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is moving forward in a fiscally responsible manner. We will continue to make responsible investments that enhance quality of life for Saskatchewan citizens. Although our economy and population continue to grow, we recognize that managing our spending in light of declining oil prices is of the utmost importance.

In 2015-16, we will continue to invest in our provincial parks, one of our province's most popular tourism attractions. We have identified the need for upgraded and additional infrastructure and are working to meet that demand. Each year, our parks receive millions of visits and we want to ensure visitors are receiving the highest-quality experience possible. We are also striving to enhance visitor programs in our parks to ensure that everyone feels welcome including new Canadians, First Nations and Métis, youth and young adults and are satisfied with their parks visit.

Access to cultural and historical resources contributes to quality of life, which is why we are also working to strengthen our province's creative industries through collaborations with Creative Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. It is why the Ministry is committed to enhancing our museums such as the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Government House.

To encourage pride of place, our Ministry invests in historic downtowns through Main Street Saskatchewan and helps celebrate our capital city through the Provincial Capital Commission.

Growth gives us the means to build a terrific quality of life for Saskatchewan citizens. Our province is full of rich history and vibrant culture. It boasts healthy, active families and beautiful natural spaces. Our job is to ensure that we continue to increase access to sport, recreation and cultural activities, that we continue to do better in preserving our historical and natural resources, and that we continue to build a stronger Saskatchewan.

Our progress will be reported on in the 2015-16 annual report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*. The province faces challenges due to volatile resource revenue; however, Saskatchewan's economy is diverse and resilient. There are strengths in many sectors from agriculture and manufacturing to resources such as potash and uranium.

With controlled spending and continued support for the conditions necessary for economic growth, the Government will meet the needs of our growing province. Investments in people and infrastructure continue to support Government's commitment to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2015-16 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry supports, celebrates and builds pride in Saskatchewan. The Ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The Ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the Province's cultural, artistic, recreational and social life; promote excellence in the arts, culture, heritage and sport; and support a vibrant and growing arts and cultural community. The Ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks system, conserves ecosystems and cultural resources, provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for park visitors and is responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mission Statement

Contribute to Saskatchewan's high quality of life, instill pride and enhance economic growth through management of the Saskatchewan Provincial Parks system, the provision of arts, culture, recreation, sport and tourism opportunities and through stewardship of provincial heritage resources.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan Provincial Parks and Recreation Sites provide a quality experience for a growing number of visitors

Strategy

Maintain, renew and expand park infrastructure and assets to achieve a reduction in the total infrastructure deficit for provincial parks

Key Actions

- Invest $14.6M to expand and improve provincial park facilities and infrastructure, fulfilling government's commitment to invest an additional $10.0M in parks' infrastructure over four years.
- Continue to implement an improved asset management system for provincial parks to modernize information and decision-making on priorities for capital investments and future maintenance across the parks system.
- Meet growing customer demands for camping:
  - expand electrical service to an additional 215 campsites;
  - upgrade electrical service to 125 campsites;
  - complete and open a new 68-site, full service campground at Greenwater Lake Provincial Park in 2015;
  - upgrade the potable water system, the sewage collection system and the trailer sewage disposal station at Greenwater Lake Provincial Park;
  - begin construction of a new campground at Blackstrap Provincial Park due to open in 2016 and a new campground service centre;
  - develop additional full-service campsites at Buffalo Pound and Moose Mountain Provincial Parks;
  - replace an aging day-use service centre at Moose Mountain Provincial Park;

- construct a new Visitor Reception Centre at Douglas Provincial Park due to open in 2016;
- upgrade the potable water system at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park; and,
- improve park roads at Blackstrap Provincial Park and Cypress Hills InterProvincial Park.

Strategy

Enhance the Saskatchewan Provincial Parks visitor program and service delivery, and the range of attractions available to maintain high visitor satisfaction and increased visitation

Key Actions

- Continue consultations and planning to fulfill government's commitment to designate new provincial parks.
- Assess the performance of the 2015 campsite reservation system enhancements and continue to improve customer experience.
- Implement targeted recreational, learning and promotional programs and services directed at returning and new visitors including new Canadians, First Nations and Métis, and youth, including:
  - expand the Cultural Access Pass Program and develop opportunities to attract new Canadians to provincial parks;
  - the Learn to Camp program; and,
  - in partnership with First Nations and Métis communities, expand "cultural camps".
- Maintain and continue to develop programming to improve access and enjoyment of parks in partnership with the recreation, arts and cultural communities:
  - expand opportunities for sport, culture and recreation groups to provide activities and events for park users.
- Assess and revitalize the provincial parks trail network through creation of a multi-use trail master plan for Moose Mountain Provincial Park, and upgrades and extensions to trails in Saskatchewan Landing, Buffalo Pound, Candle Lake and Blackstrap Provincial Parks.
- Partner with the private sector to facilitate development of new long-term seasonal camping opportunities in provincial parks.
- Partner with the private sector to facilitate renewal / expansion of marina facilities in provincial parks.
- Work with Tourism Saskatchewan and other ministries to identify recreation opportunities along Lake Diefenbaker to increase tourism and economic opportunities in the area.

Performance Measures

Number of Visitor Days in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks
Increase the number of visitor days spent in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks.

Satisfaction with Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Visit
Maintain high levels of satisfaction with the visitor experiences at Saskatchewan Provincial Parks.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Strengthen the protection and management of Saskatchewan parklands, heritage and cultural assets through conservation, regulation and stewardship

Strategy

To further protect and manage Saskatchewan's cultural heritage, increase the number of Provincial Heritage Properties, recorded archaeological sites, and management plans for Crown property

Key Actions

- Bring forward nominations for Provincial Heritage Property designation for consideration by the Minister's Heritage Property Advisory Committee.
- Identify and document known rock art sites located on provincial park lands.
- Provide archaeological heritage and built heritage regulatory services to assist property owners and land resource developers in project review, approval and conservation efforts.
- Update and develop the Provincial Archaeological Site Inventory and the Saskatchewan Register of Heritage Property for property management, land use planning, education and research.
- Provide advisory services to assist communities in protecting and conserving local heritage assets.
- Work with the Prince's Charities Canada through the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF) to create a new, sustainable, long-term conservation plan for Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site of Canada.

Strategy

Provincial heritage collections and assets controlled and maintained by the Ministry will be preserved, maintained, interpreted and documented to museum and / or conservation standards

Key Actions

- Initiate projects in provincial parks that increase the preservation of heritage collections and assets.
- Through the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), continue to house, develop and conserve provincial heritage collections, and increase understanding of Saskatchewan's natural and cultural history.
- Continue preservation and enhancement work at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Lac La Ronge Provincial Park and the stockade bastions at Fort Carlton Provincial Park.

Strategy

Protect the health of the ecosystem in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks

Key Actions

- Control the invasion of exotic invasive plant species in grassland and forested provincial parks, specifically addressing leafy spurge, crested wheatgrass, smooth bromegrass and caragana invasions.
- Monitor park forest insect and disease occurrences and apply treatments to core and backcountry areas to reduce impacts to visitor experience and public safety.
- Implement the third year of a 10-year grassland restoration project in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park.
- Work with the forestry industry to implement the second year of the Duck Mountain Provincial Park 10-year Aspen Forest Regeneration Strategy to renew the park's northern aspen forests.
- Continue to monitor tree health in park core areas and remove all at-risk trees identified as part of a yearly maintenance program to ensure visitor safety.

Performance Measures

Number of Recorded Archaeological Heritage Properties
Increase the number of recorded archaeological heritage properties.

Total Hectares Treated with Biological, Chemical, Mechanical or Other Controls Including the Use of Prescribed Burns
Increase number of hectares treated for invasive exotic plant species.

Total Number of Forested Hectares Treated by Either Mechanical Harvesting or Prescribed Burns Per Year For Each of the Five Natural Environment Parks
Increase number of forested hectares treated that reduce the ecosystem deficit in five natural environment parks.

Government Goals

Strengthening growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Support Saskatchewan's economic growth by strengthening the cultural industries and leveraging private sector investments in arts, culture and heritage

Strategy

Increase the impact of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors and creative industries on Saskatchewan's Gross Domestic Product

Key Actions

- Work with Creative Saskatchewan to grow a creative economy through the provincial investment of $7.7M in the commercialization of creative products and bringing Saskatchewan's creative talent to market through grant programs.
- Work with the Saskatchewan Arts Board to grow the arts community through the investment of $6.9M in support of the arts, artists and arts organizations to enrich community well-being, creativity, diversity and prosperity.
- Develop and implement a long-term strategy for the Canada-Saskatchewan Production Studio that provides needed supports for Saskatchewan's creative sector.
- Invest in the conservation of heritage resources through the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF):
  - increase capacity of property owners to leverage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of heritage property through the introduction of a new one-time grant for non-designated commercial heritage properties at the SHF.
- Expand participation in the Main Street Saskatchewan Program to support revitalization of historic commercial downtowns.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Improve Saskatchewan's quality of life by increasing participation in arts, sport, recreation, and culture and heritage activities

Strategy

Increase participation in sport, culture and recreation activities, especially by children and youth

Key Actions

- Target investments in leadership and training opportunities through Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to lead and engage children and youth in sport, recreation and cultural activities.
- Renew the Canada-Saskatchewan sport bilateral agreement to:
  - address barriers to children and youth participation in sport activities; and
  - support opportunities for persons from under-represented / marginalized populations to participate in sport as athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteer leaders.
- Based on the endorsement of the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015, the Ministry will collaborate with recreation sector partners on next steps for introducing the framework into Saskatchewan.
- Partner with other ministries and stakeholders to explore options to develop an on-line resource for workplace wellness.
- Ensure strategic investment in arts, sport, recreation, culture and heritage activities through the Community Initiatives Fund.
- Direct an estimated $1.8M in snowmobile registrations to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Trail Fund for ongoing safety programs, improved maintenance, and operation of trails throughout the province.
- Provide financial support of $2,500 per ice surface to skating rinks and curling rinks in Saskatchewan through the Community Rink Affordability Grant.

Strategy

Enhance visitor experience and increase visitation at Government House, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T.rex Discovery Centre

Key Actions

- Renew exhibits and visitor programs at Government House, including the family festive Old Fashioned Victorian Christmas, to continue to attract Saskatchewan residents, First Nations and Métis, new Canadians, children and youth.
- Introduce new temporary exhibits at the RSM, exhibit upgrades to the T.rex Discovery Centre, and continue to tour travelling exhibits to Saskatchewan communities.
- Develop educational and public programming in support of temporary exhibits at the RSM including providing French language gallery worksheets for students.
- Create and deliver bilingual live history performances, "Capital Vignettes", as a collaborative project for Government House, the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, and community partners.

Strategy

Increase participation in programs and events offered by the Provincial Capital Commission

Key Actions

- Initiate work to revitalize Government House in preparation for its 125th Anniversary in 2016.
- Deliver the Youth Mentorship Program to bring northern high school students to Regina to learn about democracy, governance and provincial history.
- Provide grade eight students across the province an opportunity to visit and tour the Saskatchewan Legislative Building through participation in *A Day in the Legislative Assembly*, a unique experience learning about the democratic system.
- Collaborate with Saskatchewan Archives to develop Phase Two of the First World War commemorative exhibit at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.
- Develop the plan and deliver key initiatives on Saskatchewan's Road to 2017 in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary.

Performance Measures

Number of Visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Increase the number of visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Number of Visitors to Government House
Increase the number of visitors to Government House.

Number of Visitors to the T.rex Discovery Centre
Increase the number of visitors to the T.rex Discovery Centre.

Highlights

2015-16 Budget Highlights:

Investing $14.6M to maintain and expand the infrastructure of our provincial parks to meet customer demands for camping and fulfilling government's commitment to invest an additional $10.0M in parks' infrastructure over four years, including:

- 215 additional electrified campsites for a total of more than 1,800 since 2007-08;
- upgraded electrical service for 125 additional campsites for a total of more than 1,280 upgraded since 2007-08; and,
- improvements and upgrades at Blackstrap, Buffalo Pound, Douglas, Greenwater Lake, Moose Mountain, and Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Parks, and Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

Keeping the Ministry's third party stakeholders strong and viable:

- $7.7M to Creative Saskatchewan to grow a creative economy and the commercialization of creative products;
- $6.9M to Saskatchewan Arts Board to grow and keep our arts community strong by investing in the arts, artists and arts organizations;
- expanding participation in the Main Street Saskatchewan Program to support revitalization of historic commercial downtowns;
- $2,500 per ice surface to skating and curling rinks in the province through the Community Rink Affordability Grant;
- addressing barriers and supporting opportunities from under-represented children and youth to participate in sport activities through the renewal of the Canada-Saskatchewan Sport Bilateral Agreement; and,
- an estimated $1.8M in snowmobile registration fees directed to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Trail Fund will offer improved trail maintenance and operation and ongoing safety programs.

Enhancing programs at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), Government House and Saskatchewan Provincial Parks to attract Saskatchewan residents, First Nations and Métis, new Canadians, children and youth:

- new temporary exhibits at the RSM: one with a pollination theme, one with a First Nations theme;
- bilingual "Capital Vignettes" of live historical performances at Government House and French language gallery worksheets for students at the RSM;
- increasingly popular annual themed events at Government House, including the Old Fashioned Victorian Christmas, Bump in the Night (Halloween) and outdoor summer movie night;
- initiating work to revitalize Government House in preparation for the 125th Anniversary of Government House and Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation - Saskatchewan's Road to 2017; and,
- implementation of Learn to Camp skill development.

Protecting the past to build for the future through conservation and preservation of:

- Holy Trinity Anglican Church;
- stockade bastions at Fort Carlton Provincial Park;
- rock art sites on provincial park lands;
- heritage collections, and heritage assets; and,
- archaeological and paleontological resources.

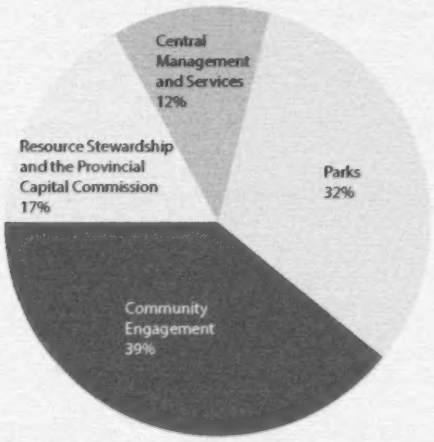
Financial Summary

2015-16 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	11,379
Parks	32,053
Community Engagement	39,031
Resource Stewardship and the Provincial Capital Commission	17,000
Regina Stadium Project	-
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**99,463**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(12,999)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	4,096
Ministry Expense	**90,560**

FTE Staff Complement	
Ministry	120.9
Commercial Revolving Fund	238.8
Total FTE Complement	**359.7**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Key Program Area


Central Management and Services 12%
Parks 32%
Community Engagement 39%
Resource Stewardship and the Provincial Capital Commission 17%

Restated 2014-15 Estimates

The subvotes Culture; Heritage; Sport, Recreation and Stewardship; Community Initiatives Fund; Building Communities; and Provincial Capital Commission are restated into new subvotes Community Engagement and Resource Stewardship and the Provincial Capital Commission. The restatement consolidates the administration of financial support for art, culture, heritage and sport into Community Engagement. Policy, advisory, regulatory and other services are consolidated into Resource Stewardship and the Provincial Capital Commission.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/parks-culture-and-sport